

Beachside Avenue Bridge
Beachside Avenue
Westport
Fairfield County
Connecticut

HAER No. CT-5

HAER
CONN.
1 - WESPO,
6 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington DC 20240

HAER
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1-WESPO,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CT-5

BEACHSIDE AVENUE BRIDGE

Location:	Carries Beachside Avenue over the AMTRAK Railroad immediately south of the Connecticut Turnpike in the Town of Westport, CT Zone 18 - Easting: 640-950 Northing: 4553-230
Date of Construction:	1891
Present Owner:	Penn Central Railroad Co.
Present Use:	Vehicular
Significance:	Primarily one of local significance. This bridge is a Warren-Pony Truss and is one of several in the area of Fairfield County.
Historian:	ConnDOT prepared information

BEACHSIDE AVENUE - WESTPORT

This structure carries Beachside Avenue over the AMTRAK Railroad immediately south of the Connecticut Turnpike in the Town of Westport, Connecticut. Beachside Avenue is a major link between one of Westport's beach resorts and the rest of the town.

Built in 1891, the bridge is considered to be primarily of local importance and it's one of several structures of its kind in Fairfield County.

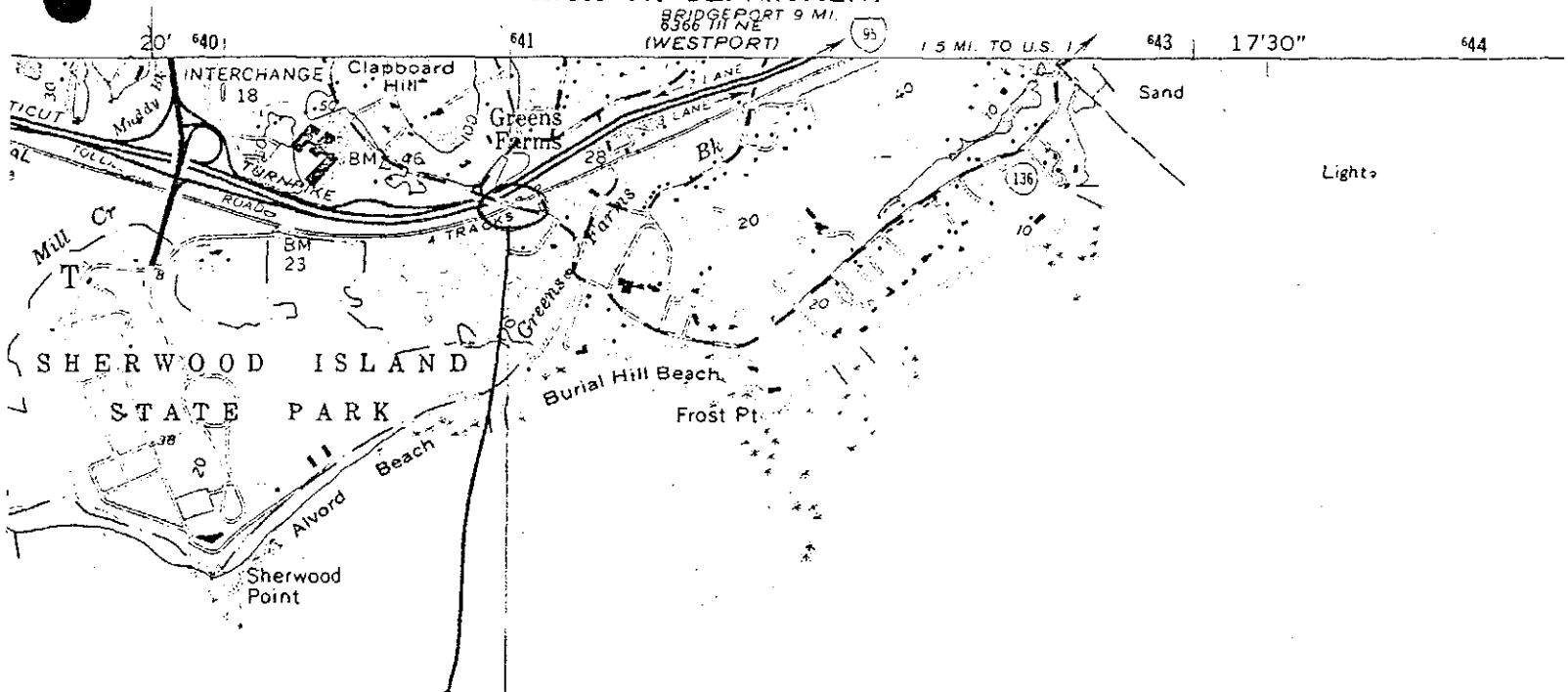
The Connecticut Historic Preservation Officer has indicated that it is eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Outside of its physical condition report, no relevant historic background is available on the bridge. Contacts with the Town Engineer's Office, the Town Library, and the Railroad Company failed to reveal anything of historic significance associated with the structure. Likewise, those contacted were unable to furnish plans for the bridge.

Rated at 11 tons, and in relatively poor condition, the superstructure is a simple span through type Warren-Pony Truss, 82' long and approximately 22' wide, carrying two lanes, of vehicular traffic, for a total roadway width of scarcely 19'. It crosses the Railroad at a 45 degree skew and its clearance over the tracks is 16.6'. The steel truss, with eight (8) transverse steel floor beams and longitudinal stringers, carries a 4" timber planking deck overlaid with a bituminous concrete wearing surface. Without a pedestrian sidewalk, the roadway is flanked on each side by a timber curb piece and a combination of wood strip and galvanized corrugated steel protective fence rail superimposed by a fine-weave galvanized wire mesh. The substructure consists of two brownstone masonry abutments, which extend for some length parallel to the Railroad as retaining walls.

The Town of Westport, the Town Library and the Railroad have been contacted relative to the builder of this structure. These contacts have failed to produce any historical significance, the name of the builder or any construction plans.

A sketch is attached showing the location of the bridge. Fifteen (15) photographs have been taken to document the structure. Two contact prints along with the negatives are included for your use. The photographs are identified on the back of the contact prints.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



*Location of Bridge
Beach side Ave
Easting : 640-950
Northing : 4553-230
Zone : 18*



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